

MEAN LAKE LEVELS DURING DECEMBER, 1925

By UNITED STATES LAKE SURVEY

[Detroit, Mich., January 6, 1926]

The following data are reported in the "Notice to Mariners" of the above date:

Data	Lakes ¹			
	Superior	Michigan and Huron	Erie	Ontario
Mean level during December, 1925: Above mean sea level at New York.....	<i>Feet</i> 600.87	<i>Feet</i> 577.54	<i>Feet</i> 570.46	<i>Feet</i> 244.55
Above or below—				
Mean stage of November, 1925.....	—0.24	—0.14	—0.01	+0.24
Mean stage of December, 1924.....	—0.55	—0.94	—0.32	—0.03
Average stage for December last 10 years.....	—1.33	—2.26	—1.17	—0.67
Highest recorded December stage.....	—2.26	—5.04	—3.07	—3.06
Lowest recorded December stage.....	—0.33	—0.94	—0.40	+1.12
Average departure (since 1860) of December levels from November levels.....	—0.26	—0.22	—0.09	—0.10

¹ Lake St. Clair's level: In December, 1925, 572.83 feet.

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, DECEMBER, 1925

By J. B. KINCER

General summary.—The generally mild weather, light precipitation, and absence of severe storms during the first half of December made favorable weather for agricultural interests during that period in nearly all sections of the country. In the South, seasonal outdoor operations made good progress, except for some slight interruptions by rainfall, and winter cereals and truck crops advanced satisfactorily. The moist, warm weather in Florida, however, was rather unfavorable for handling citrus fruit. Over the Great Plains area nearly ideal weather prevailed for outside work, and the absence of material snow cover permitted livestock to range freely, even in the more northern districts, thus saving much feed. More rain was needed in the Pacific area.

The latter half of the month was less favorable for agricultural interests. In the Southeastern States the third week was cloudy and rainy, which delayed trucking operations in the more southern districts, though some progress was made on higher ground of Florida. During the same period frost over the west Gulf area extended to extreme southern Texas and did some damage to

tender truck crops. Near the close of the month a severe cold wave overspread all central and eastern portions of the country and growing winter truck crops sustained considerable injury in Southeastern States.

Small grains.—Late-sown winter grains made slow growth during much of the month in the interior valley States, but wheat, while small, maintained in most sections rather satisfactory condition. More moisture was needed in parts of the Southwest, especially in the western portions of Texas and Oklahoma. The northern portions of the belt had a fairly good snow cover during the cold weather the latter part of the month, but some harm was reported by freezing locally in the Ohio Valley. Rain was needed in California, but conditions were more favorable in the Pacific Northwest where the melting snow penetrated the soil and improved its condition.

Corn and cotton.—The open weather the first half of the month in the interior valleys favored late gathering of corn and by the middle this work was nearly done, or actually completed in most sections. There was much complaint, however, of high moisture content, particularly in the upper Mississippi Valley. Picking of the remnants of the cotton crop in the northwestern portion of the belt was favored, and by the middle of the month harvest was nearly completed in Oklahoma, and also in Arkansas except in some eastern counties.

Miscellaneous crops and livestock.—Except where the soil was too wet locally in some southeastern districts, truck crops did well in the Southern States until the cold weather near the close of the month, although there were some unfavorable frosts in Texas during the third week. The cold wave near the close did considerable damage to cabbage, lettuce, and other hardy truck in south Atlantic and east Gulf districts, except in the southern portion of Florida, where there was no material harm.

Truck did well in California, with planting active in the Imperial Valley. Cane harvest was practically completed in Louisiana, with yield generally unsatisfactory. The month was mostly favorable for livestock interests in the great western grazing districts, although snow-covered range in parts of the central Rocky Mountain area necessitated heavy feeding. Snowfall continued markedly deficient in the far western mountains, with little or none stored in the high Sierras of California at the close of the month; more moisture was badly needed in all parts of that State.